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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,609	11/28/2006	Hideyuki Kanai	9281-5249	9251
757	7590	09/16/2009	EXAMINER	
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610				AGGARWAL, YOGESH K
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2622				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/568,609	KANAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	YOGESH K. AGGARWAL	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,6-12 and 16-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3-5 and 13-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6-15, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Britz (US Patent # 5,414,444) in view of Knopf (US Patent # 7,170,468).

[Claim 1]

Britz teaches an electronic device (figures 1 and 2) comprising a display including: a first display unit having a first display portion (121); a second display unit having a second display portion (101); and coupling means (hinge 128), provided between the first and second display units, for freely changing the mode of the display among a first mode in which the first and second display portions are folded so as to face each other (See figure 1) and a third mode in which the first and second display units are opened such that the first and second display portions are adjacent to each other laterally (See figure 2). Britz fails to teach a second mode in which the first and second display units are opened such that the first and second display portions are arranged longitudinally. However Knopf teaches a mode in which the displays are either in the longitudinal direction or lateral direction when open (figures 3 and 4). Therefore taking the combined teachings of Britz and Knopf, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have used a second mode in which the first and second display units are opened such that the first and second display portions are arranged

longitudinally in order to have a display be used in multiple direction thereby making it more versatile.

[Claim 2]

The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 1, wherein the coupling means (the outer body of hinge holding the shafts in figure 2) includes one or two coupling shafts for folding the coupling means in two or three; and rotating shafts are provided between the coupling means and the first display unit and between the coupling means and the second display unit to support the first and second display units rotatably with respect to the coupling means (see figure 2).

[Claim 6]

Britz teaches wherein at least one of the first and second display portions includes a transparent touch panel (col. 2 lines 52-55).

[Claim 7]

Britz teaches wherein the first and second display units each include an RF unit for communicating data information therebetween using a radio wave (col. 2 lines 17-27).

[Claim 8]

Britz teaches wherein the peripheries of the first and second display portions are protected by frames; sides of the frames which are adjacent to each other in the third mode are supported rotatably with respect to the other portions of the frames; and the first and second display portions form a single display portion with the sides rotated (figure 2).

[Claim 9]

Britz teaches an electronic device comprising: a first rectangular casing including a first display portion; a second rectangular casing including a second display portion; and second securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined long sides thereof being in contact with each other (figures 1 and 2). Britz fails to teach first securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other. However Knopf teaches first securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other (figures 3 and 4). Therefore taking the combined teachings of Britz and Knopf, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have first securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other in order to have a display be used in multiple direction thereby making it more versatile.

[Claim 10]

Britz teaches further comprising a first rotating portion for rotatably connecting the first and second casings, wherein the first rotating portion accommodates wiring connecting electrical systems of the first and second casings; the first display portion of the first casing and the second display portion of the second casing are provided so that the display portions are arrangeable in the same plane; and the first and second casings are relatively rotatable about the first rotating portion in a predetermined plane (figure 2). Britz fails to teach

[Claim 11]

Britz teaches electronic device according to Claim 9, having a cellular phone function and a television or Internet receiver function, wherein a cellular phone is formed when the first securing means secures the predetermined short sides of the first and second casings; and a

television or Internet receiver is formed when the second securing means secures the predetermined long sides of the first and second casings (col. 2 lines 59-68).

[Claim 12]

The electronic device according to Claim 11, wherein the first and second casings have the same aspect ratio (figure 2), the aspect ratio being 3:2 or 9:8.

[Claim 13]

The electronic device according to Claim 12, wherein the second display portion of the second casing forms an input part when the electronic device is used as a cellular phone (figure 2).

[Claim 14]

The electronic device according to claims 9 further comprising: a first protective plate for protecting the first display portion; a first second rotating portion for attaching the first protective plate to the predetermined long side of the first casing rotatably with respect to the first casing; a second protective plate for protecting the second display portion; and a second rotating portion for attaching the second protective plate to the predetermined long side of the second casing rotatably with respect to the second casing (figure 2).

[Claim 15]

The electronic device according to any of Claim 13, wherein the first securing means comprises first locking means for locking the first and second casings with the predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other; and the second securing means comprises second locking means for locking the first and second casings with the predetermined long sides thereof being in contact with each other (figure 2).

[Claim 19]

An electronic device comprising: a first casing including a first display portion and having adjacent short and long sides; a second casing including a second display portion and having adjacent short and long sides; first securing means for securing the first and second casings with short sides thereof being in contact with each other; and second securing means for securing the first and second casings with long sides thereof being in contact with each other (figure 2).

[Claim 20]

The electronic device according to Claim 1, being a portable information terminal (figures 1 and 2).

[Claim 21]

The electronic device according to Claim 9, being a portable information terminal (figures 1 and 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 3-5 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOGESH K. AGGARWAL whose telephone number is (571)272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yogesh K Aggarwal/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622